(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) to (d) The Report of Comptroller & Auditor General of India for the year ended 31st March, 1996 has brought out in its paragraph No. 11.1 and 11.2 on the programmes News Tonight and 'Aaj Tak' that undue benefit to the producers of these programmes by granting extra Free Commercial Time (FCT) has resulted in loss of Rs.5.38 crore and Rs.6.60 crore, respectively, to Doordarshan.

The matter relating to granting of extra FCT to 'Aaj Tak' based on CAG report referred to above is presently under examination of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC). The issue of undue favour granted to some programmes by Doordarshan including 'News Tonight' produced by M/s NDTV has also been included in the CAG Report for the year ended 31st March,1996. This matter was also examined by the PAC. The Committee in its Report submitted ot the Los Sabha on 22nd April, 1997 have recommended that the matter should be entrusted to an appropriate Investigative Agency to be decided by the Cabinet Secreatry for a thorough enquiry. Accordingly, the matter has been entrusted to Central Bureau of Investigation for investigation.

Delegation of Powers to DRM

392. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that a number of farmers taken water supply pipe lines under Railway lines for minor irrigation purposes without any Government sanction in Barmer and Jaisalmer districts of Rajasthan;

(b) if so, whether there is inordinate delay in granting sanction to farmers to cross water pipe for irrigation;

(c) whether this is basically due to time consuming process for according sanction by the Government;

(d) whether the Government propose to delegate powers to Divisional Railway Managers for according sanction for the purpose;

(e) if so, the time by which powers are likely to be delegated to Divisional Railway Managers; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Existing procedure is being considered adequate.

Corporate Plan for Air India

393. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Air India has formulated a Comprehensive and long term corporate plan;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof ;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by which date it is likely to be laid in the Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATRAJAN) : (a) to (d) Air India is in the process of fornulating a corporate plan, which will have short, medium and long-term components. The plan is likely to be finalised by the end of December, 1997.

[Translation]

Departure Rescheduled

394. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the departure time of Bhagalpur-Kurla Express has been rescheduled; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) 3447 Bhagalpur-Kurla Express was rescheduled from 01.10.96 to leave Bhagalpur at 09.15 hrs. instead of 17.00 hrs. essentially as a part of reorganisation of trains from Bihar to Mumbai wherein daily services were provided between Patna and Muzaffarpur to Kurla and the four days a week service from Bhagalpur to Kurla rescheduled as a Bhagalpur to Dadar service.

[English]

Railway Projects

395. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railway have proposed projects worth over Rs.8000/- crore for the approval of Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs during the current year;